



P. 3 **A&E:** A feauture by Eddie Fernandez on skateboarding culture, cutting loose and hanging out at Spartan Complex

P. 5 **Opinion:** New ‘In my Experience’ gives advice to a religious follower who feels his beliefs are ‘maligned by the media’

P. 6 **News:** Critics of harsh voter ID laws mobilize to register potential voters




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CAMPUS IMAGE

Hot day, cool pool



Chemical biology major Tri Nguyen kept cool by practicing the butterfly stroke at the Aquatic Center yesterday. San Jose had a high of 92 degrees Farenheit on the day. **Photo by Derik Irvin / Spartan Daily**

EDUCATION

CSU board of trustees proposes unit cap to expedite student graduation

By Jonathan Roisman
@JonRoisman

In an effort to streamline the number of units required to complete a bachelor’s degree, the California State University Board of Trustees will vote in November whether to cap most degrees at 120 semester units or 180 quarter units.

The change to Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations was proposed at a board of trustees meeting Sept. 19 in Long Beach, one of its six annual meetings streamed online.

“We think it’s going to make programs more appealing as they get the unit caps down,” said Christine Mallon, state university dean of the CSU Chancellor’s Office, at the meeting.

Mallon said students currently enrolled in degrees with more than 120 units would save money by taking less time to graduate.

“(Degrees) will be more affordable for students, and we’re going to provide access for more of the freshman and transfer students who have not been able to come in our doors,” she said.

If the change to Title 5 is passed, degrees that require 121 to 129 units for completion would be capped at 120 units for the Fall 2013 semester and degrees requiring 130 or more units would be capped at 120 units by the Fall 2014 semester across the 23-campus system, according to Mallon.

She said each individual CSU campus would be tasked to reduce the number of units for majors over 120 units.

Cuts to unit requirements would come in upper division coursework, she said.

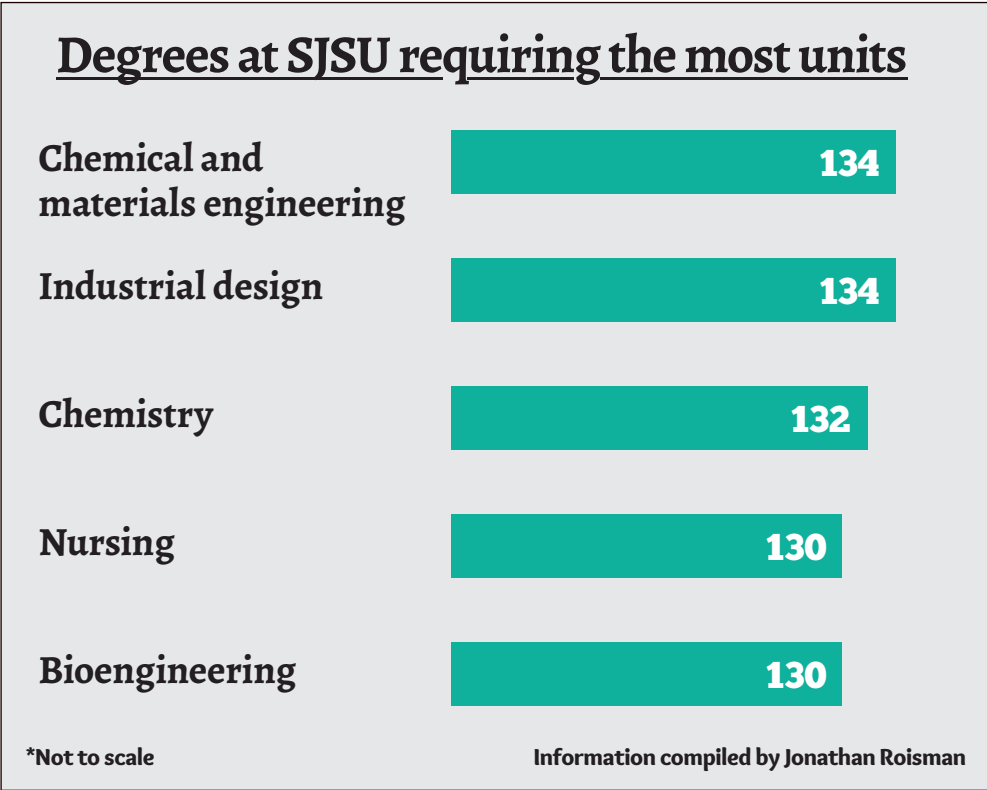
Mallon said 508 of the 2,716 combinations, or 19 percent, of bachelor’s programs and associated concentrations in the CSU system are more than 120 units.

Forty-four degrees at SJSU are currently more than 120 units, according to SJSU President Mohammad Qayoumi.

“About 1,000 of our students take an extra semester at school because of credit requirements being more than 120 credits,” Qayoumi said at the board of trustees meeting.

Klayton Tang, a senior environmental studies major, said he did not think extra units should be required for most majors. His major currently requires 126 units.

Tang said he did not believe the two extra



classes he had to take at SJSU enhanced his education.

“I could use that time to be working or something,” he said. “You really repeat the same material over and over.”

Steven Montalvo, a sophomore industrial design major, whose major currently requires 132 units, had a different take on the issue.

He said although it would take most students at least six years to complete an industrial design degree, he believed it was worth it because he said the quality of education he got from the faculty was bar-none.

“There are times where I stay up all night once a week, not because I procrastinated, but because there’s a lot of work to do,” Montalvo said.

He said it was worth it, however.

“It’s definitely one of the better programs in the country,” Montalvo said.

A number of programs would be exempt from the change if it shows why it needs more than 120 units for completion, says Dennis Jaehne, associate vice president for undergraduate studies.

He said programs that require additional accreditation, such as the nursing program, would be allowed to have more than 120 units.

All degrees at SJSU are given accreditation

by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Jaehne said, but some programs are accredited by a second agency, such as the College of Business, which is also accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

He said some programs need to be accredited by a second agency for people to land a job, such as students in the nursing program, which is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

“You’re never going to be a nurse if you don’t come from an accredited nursing program, because that’s a state licensure,” Jaehne said.

He said, however, many of programs did not need dual accreditation.

“Other accreditation is done because it’s a feather in your cap and it’s something to be proud of, but it’s not necessarily the difference between you getting a job or not,” Jaehne said.

He said bachelor’s of fine arts degrees would be excluded from the 120-unit limit, such as some art and dance degrees.

However, some people are concerned that the quality of education could be diluted if steps to reduce the number of units for a degree are not taken carefully.

SEE DEGREES ON PAGE 3

GREEK LIFE

Kappa Sigma house to reopen in spring

By Natalie Cabral
@SD_NCabral

Members of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity expect to settle into their newly constructed home next spring after city permits delayed plans to move in this fall.

According to Shane Peters, Kappa Sigma president and mechanical engineering major, the house suffered \$1.7 million worth of damages from a four-alarm fire on June 21, 2011.

The 28 residents who had been inside of the home that morning escaped unharmed, according to a press release issued by Pat Lopes Harris, SJSU’s media relations director.

“I lost everything,” said Mathias Armstrong, member and justice studies major. “After the fire everyone just found apartments and other places, but we tried to stay together.

According to an earlier article published by the Spartan Daily, Peters attributed the fire to poor electrical wiring.

“Our housing corporation hired multiple architects who came up with various designs and then ran the floor plans by our brothers to make sure the new layout would still be functionable (in) a fraternity house setting,” Peters said.

According to Peters, after deciding on a layout for the new house it was the process of submitting blueprints to the City of San Jose that prolonged the progress even more.

According to the City of San Jose’s Development Services website, the process of remodeling or reconstructing involves proper knowledge of zoning, property restrictions, mechanical, plumbing and electrical permits.

These types of larger changes involve extensive planning before approval, according to the site.

“This part took much longer than we had hoped or expected, but with luck, we finally got our plans approved and were able to start construction,” Peters said.

Now after 15 months without an official house to call home, Peters said the process of rebuilding couldn’t have started soon enough.

Despite not having an official house, Armstrong said the fraternity had no problem recruiting new members following the incident.

“The guys that we have recruited are only people that have been interested in the brotherhood aspect,” Armstrong said. “In a sense, I think we’ve increased the quality of our brothers.”

According to Roberto Becerra, member and psychology major, the fraternity has been conducting regular chapter meetings in the Boccardo Business Complex.

They also still maintain more than 62 active members, according to Becerra.

The Kappa Sigma Fraternity was established at SJSU in 1965, according to the organization’s official website, and was originally founded in Bologna, Italy in 1400.

As for the new home, Peters said it will be similar to their former one, only with newer upgrades.

“And as the head of our housing corporation puts it, ‘college-student proof?’” Peters said.

Natalie Cabral is a Spartan Daily staff writer. Follow her on Twitter @SD_NCabral.

FOOTBALL

Coach Mac: SJSU football ready for WAC opener

By James Simpson
@JimmerSimpson

The Spartan football team's victory over the US Naval Academy marked the first time in school history it defeated a team in the Eastern time zone.

SJSU has a bye week to prepare for its homecoming game against Utah State University Aggies.

Head Coach Mike MacIntyre held his weekly news conference Monday to talk about the 12-0 win over the Midshipmen, awards and to preview the contest against the Aggies.

Senior defensive end Travis Johnson won the Western Athletic Conference (WAC) award for defensive player of the week for the second time this season.

Johnson also is one of the semifinalists for the National Football Foundation Scholar-Athlete Award.

The Spartans (4-1) have now had a WAC award winner every week since the week two game against UC Davis.

Freshman kicker Austin Lopez was perfect on all field goals in last week's game and was nominated

He's (Johnson) the heart and soul of our defense and really sets the tone for us — he's a phenomenal player.

Coach Mike MacIntyre

for the special teams award.

Senior tight end Ryan Otten rounded out the player-of-the-week nominations on the offensive side.

Against Navy (1-3), Johnson had eight tackles, one and a half sacks and a forced fumble.

"I can't say enough about what a phenomenal young man (Johnson) is," MacIntyre



Senior defensive end Travis Johnson (right) tackled UC Davis' junior quarterback Randy Wright on Sept. 9 at Spartan Stadium. Johnson was named WAC defensive player of the week twice this season. **Photo by Jason Reed / Contributing Photographer**

said. "He's the heart and soul of our defense and really sets the tone for us — he's a phenomenal player."

The Spartans didn't have much trouble moving the ball against Navy, but settled for field goals the whole game.

The first three-pointer would turn out to be all that the Spartans needed, as SJSU shut out a team for the first time since the 2003 season.

"We were able to keep the Navy offense on the bench, and keep our defense fresh," MacIntyre said. "Anytime you shut out someone is pretty amazing in today's football with all the scoring points you see all

the time."

The game against Utah State (4-1) will represent the Spartan's first competitor in the WAC division and, according to MacIntyre, the extra time off should help SJSU prepare for another team that is quickly ascending to the top of the standings in the division.

"We're beat up a little bit. That was a long trip to Navy," he said. "A lot of teams, the week after they play Navy, they always lose. To me, it was a perfect time for an open date."

According to SJSU Athletics, SJSU leads the all-time series 20-13-1.

Utah State has defeated SJSU the last three years,

including last year's heart-breaking 34-33 defeat.

SJSU is currently ranked as the number one pass offense, while the Aggies is ranked as the number one passing defense, according to the WAC website.

Spartan junior quarterback David Fales has completed nearly 75 percent of his passes this season while Utah State's defense has only allowed opposing quarterbacks to complete 47 percent through the air this year, according to the WAC website.

"We'll be studying (Utah State) this week and we'll look at what they do and find out the best way to attack them,"

MacIntyre said. "We'll still be able to throw the ball. I think we have good weapons, good receivers and our quarterback also is very good."

The Spartans enter the homecoming game with positive media attention that is starting to gain some steam.


For the third week in a row, SJSU gained top 25 votes in the USA Today national coaches' poll, this time with four votes.

The Spartans will play the homecoming game against Utah State on Saturday, Oct. 13 at 1 p.m.

James Simpson is a *Spartan Daily* staff writer. Follow him on Twitter at @JimmerSimpson.

Congratulations Nader Samedi

On winning the Spartan Daily first of three ticket give away!



Thank you to all those who participated. Keep reading the Spartan Daily and look out for additional contest and sweepstakes!

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Schubert: The “Trout” Piano Quintet

The Listening Hour Concert Series
Today, Oct. 2
12:30 to 1:15 p.m.
Music building Concert Hall
Free admission, doors open at 12:15 p.m.

Chemistry Department Seminar:

Dr. Katherine Watts
Chemistry Department
Today, Oct. 2
4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Duncan Hall room 135

“Women in Tech talks” —

Jenny Stevens, Genentech
Society of Women Engineers
Today, Oct. 2
6 p.m.
Engineering Building 285/287

Strides against breast cancer fundraiser

Marketing Association
Wednesday, Oct. 3
3 to 4 p.m.
Pacifica room, all are welcome to join

SJSpirit open meditation

SJSpirit
Wednesday, Oct. 3
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Front of Event Center

4th St. Pizza fundraiser

Alpha Kappa Psi
Wednesday, Oct. 3
6 to 11 p.m.
4th St. Pizza 150 E. Santa Clara St.
San Jose, CA

Speaker Event: “The Uncensored Truth about Finding a Job in a Jobless Market”

Alpha Kappa Psi
Wednesday, Oct. 3
8 to 9 p.m.
Student Union Pacifica Room

Lets label GMOs

Environmental Club
Wednesday, Oct. 3
5 to 6:15 p.m.
Student Union Montalvo room

Spartan success and support groups and workshops: Communicating with Professors

Counseling Services Educational
Wednesday, Oct. 3
3 to 4 p.m.
Student Services Center 603

Weekly prayer and healing

SJSpirit
Thursday, Oct. 4
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Spartan Memorial Chapel

Small Jazz Ensemble — “Latin Jazz & Funk”

The Listening Hour Concert Series
Thursday, Oct. 4
12:30 to 1:15 p.m.
Music building Concert Hall
Free admission, doors open at 12:15 p.m.

Degrees: 120-unit cap in plan for CSU majors

FROM PAGE 1

Jonathan Karpf, an anthropology lecturer and an associate vice president on the California Faculty Association Board of Directors, said the process to reduce degree units was being rushed and without much input from the academic senate.

“It’s understandable what’s motivating the (Chancellor’s Office), but there’s question of the process they’re engaged in,” he said.

Karpf said the faculty should have a bigger say as to how programs can be adjusted to get to 120 units because they are the ones who teach the classes.

He said that some part-time professors could lose their jobs if there were fewer sections available, because fewer units would be required for degree completion, but he said the opposition from the CFA was not because of that.

“Nobody is opposed among the faculty to think about ways to help our students get the quality of education that we want to provide and they want to gain in a timely and efficient manner ... but not at the expense of the quality of education,” Karpf said.

He said, however, that unintended negative consequences could happen when policies like these are decided by the chancellor and not by the faculty.

“It’s an example of the top down management style that’s characterized our current chancellor and the board of trustees,” Karpf said.

Ping Hsu, the interim dean of engineering, said the school is not shocked by the board of trustees’ desire to cap degrees.

He said he did not think the board of trustees’ vote in November was too soon because the school has known about it for a long time.

“The 120-unit requirement has been discussed for

(Degrees) will be more affordable for students, and we’re going to provide access for more freshman and transfer students who have not been able to come in our doors.

Christine Mallon
dean of
CSU Chancellor’s
Office

10 or 15 years, so this is not a surprise, especially with a budget like we have now,” he said.

Hsu said degrees had to be limited to 120 units at some point.

He said that students currently enrolled at SJSU would have to finish the number of units required for their degree when they first entered school.

Hsu said the majority of engineering degrees at the school require more than 120 units for completion, and many are 132 units.

“Two years of a compliance period is reasonable,” he said. “I’m less concerned about the time frame than if there isn’t a ground rule that offers flexibility for different colleges.”

The minimum number of units required for a bachelor’s degree was lowered from 124 to 120 units in the summer of 2000, according to Mallon.

She said an effort has been made for 12 years to make 120 units the cap for most degrees, as well.

“By changing student behaviors and institutional behaviors we want to produce more graduates,” Mallon said. “Quality can be maintained by re-envisioning the way the curriculum is delivered.”

Jonathan Roisman is a Spartan Daily staff writer. Follow him on Twitter @JonRoisman.

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Major Authors

NICK FLYNN

October 2
Screening of *Being Flynn*. ENGR 189. 7pm.

October 3
Reading & Book Signing. ENGR 189. 7pm.

October 4
In Conversation with Tom Barbash. MLK 225/229. 1pm.

Author of three books of poetry, including *The Captain Asks for a Show of Hands*, and two memoirs, including *Another Bullshit Night in Suck City*, now the film *Being Flynn*. Winner of the PEN/Martha Albrand Award and fellowships from the Library of Congress and the Guggenheim Foundation, Flynn’s work has been shortlisted for France’s Prix Femina and translated into fourteen languages.

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CAMPUS CULTURE

Spartan Complex walkway paves path for skaters

By Eddie Fernandez
@SD_EFernandez

Inside SJSU, between Yoshihiro Uchida Hall and the red-bricked Spartan Complex, the sound of wheels rolling and the loud noise of wood slamming against pavement is heard.

The Spartan Complex, which is referred to by skaters as SPX, is a social gathering spot for skaters to perform board tricks such as kickflips, ollies and grinds.

Ken Arakaki, a senior health science major has routinely skated at SPX during his college years at SJSU.

“The main thing why people skate here a lot is just because of the floor,” Arakaki said. “Cracks (and) rocks are pretty much our main enemies when it comes to skating.”

He explained the smooth pavement is similar to the material used at skate parks.

According to Arakaki, the group of skaters don’t consider themselves a club, but a lot of skaters find their way to SPX meetings and meet new people.

“Pretty much all my friends I make, I met them here,” Arakaki said. “Most of my good friends, like 90 percent of friends I hang out here, (I) met through skating.”

Ben Truong, a senior management information systems major and frequent skater at SPX, said he and fellow skaters try to only skate when there are minimal people walking through the area.



A skater gets ready to do a trick over a skateboard between Spartan Complex aka, “SPX,” and Yoshihiro Uchida Hall. Photo by Eddie Fernandez / Spartan Daily

“When someone walks by, or like bikers or any other pedestrians, we just stop and wait for them to pass,” Truong said. “We don’t want to do tricks near them and have the board shoot out and hit them in the leg.”

Truong added that skating at SPX has allowed him to make new friends and said he recommends students who skate to come to SPX.

“Just come out and do it. When I started, I didn’t know how to do anything,” he said. “Being around other people

who were better than me would sometimes motivate me to become as good as them or better.”

However, some students don’t mind that SPX is being occupied daily in the afternoon by the skaters.

Pamela Flynn, a graduate student and hospitality, recreation and tourism management program coordinator, said she enjoys seeing students doing outdoor activities at SJSU.

“I like to see people spending their time playing sports,”

Flynn said. “It doesn’t bother me, the only little thing that might bug me is that it’s kind of loud at times going by. It’s not a big deal.”

Senior hospitality major Michelle Davis said she finds it cool that skaters perform tricks at the Spartan Complex.

“I don’t mind it,” Davis said. “You can do whatever you want I guess, just kind of be aware of everybody else around campus.”

However, what appears to be a light red pavement being used as a skate ground, has

some professors next door are worried about the safety of pedestrians and the skaters perform tricks and stunts.

“I worry about them, if they fall down and if they get hurt” said Tsu- Hong Yen, a hospitality recreation and tourism management professor.

He said he would like to see the group of skaters move to another location.

“That’s not a place to (skate),” Yen said. “(They have to factor in) students who pass by there.”

Although the skaters said they try their best to avoid students and respect walkways, Laurence (Lar) Caughlan, a yoga and rock climbing professor, said he doesn’t want them skating there.

“I love skateboarding, but not where there’s a bunch of people walking around,” Caughlan said. “I’m just worried about the colliding with people.”

Eddie Fernandez is a Spartan Daily staff writer. Follow him on Twitter at @SD_EFernandez.

Classifieds

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UNIVERSAL
Sudoku Puzzle

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

						8			2
	5					4	8		9
			7						5
	9	3	2					8	
			4	5	7	1	9		
	1					9	4	6	
9						2			
2		6	9					7	
1			4						

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

How To Play

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3 by 3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.
Check back daily for new sudoku puzzles and solutions.

Previous Sudoku Solution

9	5	2	4	6	1	8	7	3
4	7	1	3	8	5	6	9	2
3	6	8	2	7	9	4	5	1
1	2	4	8	3	7	9	6	5
8	9	5	6	1	2	3	4	7
7	3	6	9	5	4	2	1	8
6	8	7	1	9	3	5	2	4
2	1	9	5	4	8	7	3	6
5	4	3	7	2	6	1	8	9

Today's Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16		
17					18					19		
				20					21	22		
23	24	25						26				
27						28	29					
30					31					32	33	34
35					36	37				38		
39					40					41		
		42	43						44	45		
46	47							48				
49						50	51					
52					53	54				55	56	57
58					59					60		
61					62					63		

Previous Puzzle Answer:

1	P	A	W	S	D	E	A	N	J	U	S	T
2	A	I	R	Y	O	K	R	A	M	U	N	C
3	R	O	Y	R	O	G	E	R	S	I	N	D
4	E	L	L	I	S	O	T	O	S	C	O	P
5	R	I	Y	A	L	S	W	Y	A	T	T	
6					N	O	O	N	T	R	U	W
7					P	A	T			D	I	B
8					S	A	R	E	A	L		
9					T	A	N	R	O	U	L	E
10					T	T	E			S	E	W
11					G	A	R	I	S	H	E	I
12					R	E						
13					M	U	O	N	S	T	O	N
14					T	O	N	E	R	S		
15					C	H	E	M	I	C	A	L
16					S	T	R	I	P			
17					A	B	I	N	R	E	L	
18					A	L	O	N	G	C	E	O
19					S	A	T	A	N			
20					G	O	N	G	R	O	P	T
21					S	P	O	N	D			

ACROSS

- Provoked (with "on")
- Pale purple
- Photo (journalists' desires)
- Garden statue
- "___ man with seven wives"
- Decaf dispenser at a diner
- Like Maryland crabs in the winter
- Foot part
- Bully's weapons
- A layer with a hole
- Alternatives
- Pot, in the past
- Blind slot
- Sorrowful sound
- Pre-deal chip
- Not good places to get your kicks
- ___ and cry (public clamor)
- Post-prenup
- statement
- Unconscious
- Pull the plug on
- Part of Great Britain's defense
- Cockama-rie
- Deep draft of liquor
- Barely worth bringing up
- Annul, as a judgment
- Peyton Manning is one
- All-night flights
- From around here
- Ozzy Osbourne's wife
- "Shoot!"
- Gasp
- A's distant cousin
- Coined word?
- "Sesame Street" character
- Wintertime in D.C.
- Uses camouflage

.63 Winona of "Edward Scissorhands"

DOWN

- ___ trip (self-indulgent activity)
- Serengeti antelope
- Acquired or understood
- Expressive of feelings
- Spoil the surface of
- Property restrictions
- "And while ___ it ..."
- Subtracting
- ___ Z (completely)
- Padding advocate
- Safe from approaching danger
- Lying facedown
- Lip-curling look
- One who says, "See you in court!"
- Road to enlightenment, for some
- Mrs. Clifft Huxtable
- Civic organization?
- Like some expenses
- Indian royal
- Fake
- Limb's partner
- Name on the mar-queue
- Call to the workers of the world
- Does some lawn work
- Waterproof fabric
- Golden Rule word
- Stage back-ground
- The Santa ___ winds
- "Walk" or "crawl" or "sink" or "swim"
- Infatuated one
- Job for firemen
- American Beauties
- Some are inflatable
- Poker game
- Coil in a garden
- Controversial mentalist
- Geller
- Clause connector
- Reason for OT
- That lady's pronoun

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ELECTION

Voter ID law critics seek out the unregistered

By Tony Pugh
McClatchy Tribune

PHILADELPHIA — As legal challenges to voter identification laws slowly wind their way through the courts, opponents of the controversial measures aren't just sitting around waiting for judicial relief.

They're hitting the streets in a grassroots effort to make sure affected voters have the documents they'll need to cast their ballots in November.

"When you put Americans' backs against the wall, we tend to rise and we tend to fight a little harder," said John Jordan, an NAACP elections consultant in Philadelphia, where a new state law requires voters to have government-issued photo identification documents.

From Pennsylvania to South Carolina to Florida, a loose network of civic, religious, labor and civil rights groups are working to find, educate and register voters who might not meet eligibility requirements under a spate of new Republican-backed laws that opponents say create new barriers to voting in the name of stopping fraud.

With the Nov. 6 election just weeks away, early voting under way in most states and only a few days remaining for voters to register, the get-out-the-vote efforts have taken on increasing urgency.

Whether it's knocking on doors, passing out fliers, collecting petition signatures or driving voters to get the proper documents, volunteers are



Demonstrators hold signs during a voter ID rally Sept. 13 in Philadelphia, Penn. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court held a hearing on whether a law requiring photo identification from each voter should take effect for the Nov. 6 presidential election. Photo by William Thomas Cain / MCT

working furiously to counter the new laws that disproportionately impact the elderly, poor and minority voters.

In Ohio, volunteers have traveled by van to nine cities, registering 3,500 black voters.

In Georgia, a group has helped more than 100 Atlanta homeless shelter residents get photo IDs in the last month.

And in 33 Florida counties, hundreds of black churches are moving their "souls to the polls" early voting campaign to Sunday, Oct. 28, after election laws eliminated Sunday voting on the weekend before Election Day and imposed other restrictions as well.

"We're asking churches if they will stand together and continue to make the statement that you will not sup-

press our vote," said Salandra Benton of Titusville, Fla., head of the Florida affiliate of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation.

The federal courts already have weighed in, striking down a Texas voter ID law because it would have hurt minorities and placed "strict, unforgiving burdens on the poor." A South Carolina law is being challenged as well.

In Philadelphia, more than 140 organizations have formed the Pennsylvania Voter ID Coalition to help residents prepare for the new law, which is also under legal challenge.

When 53-year-old Gregory Jackson of Portland, Ore., heard that 750,000 Pennsylvanians may lack the

required ID, he took a week of vacation and flew to Philadelphia to help with voter outreach.

An energy efficiency specialist, he spent a week stuffing information packets, attending voter education events, registering voters at a soup kitchen and soliciting volunteers for coalition events.

Jackson and an NAACP worker helped nearly 150 people register to vote, while making sure they had the proper identification. He left town with a hoarse voice but a sense of satisfaction.

"I talked to a lot of people," Jackson said. "There were a lot who just flat out said they weren't going to vote...because their vote's not heard. And we turned a bunch of those people

around and got them to register and got them to commit to getting their valid IDs."

Since 2011, Pennsylvania and seven other states have passed voter laws requiring government-issued photo IDs, according to the Brennan Center for Justice at the New York University School of Law.

Polls have shown that Americans generally support having voters provide photo identification. Republicans say the laws are needed to stop voter fraud.

"The unfortunate reality is that ... election fraud has been woven into the political fabric of the community, tainting elections, skewing results, disenfranchising legal voters and compounding voter cynicism for far too long," wrote Horace

Cooper, adjunct fellow at the conservative National Center for Public Policy Research.

Arizona officials recently announced that nine people were under investigation for illegally voting twice — in Arizona and another state — in the 2010 general election.

"When we find the rare instance of voter fraud, we vigorously prosecute the offenders to the fullest extent of the law," said Arizona Secretary of State Ken Bennett.

But numerous studies and investigations have shown that voter fraud is, as Bennett said, a rare occurrence. An exhaustive analysis of more than 2,000 reported cases since 2000 found only 10 instances of voter impersonation, the only kind of voter fraud that the new laws would prevent.

That's one case for every 14.6 million eligible voters, according to the study by News21, a national investigative reporting project funded by the Carnegie Corp. of New York and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

Republican officials made headlines earlier this year with claims that nearly 12,000 non-citizens were on the voter rolls in Colorado and up to 180,000 in Florida.

But the Colorado numbers actually ended up amounting to a mere 141, or 0.004 percent of roughly 3.5 million registered voters. The actual non-citizen totals in Florida were just as paltry — 207, or 0.002 percent of its 11 million-plus voters.

CALIFORNIA

Supreme Court tiptoes into legality of California's Armenian-genocide law

By Michael Doyle
McClatchy Tribune

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Monday invited the Obama administration to wade into a potential diplomatic controversy by seeking its views on a controversial California law that helps Armenian victims of mass killings a century ago, and their heirs, seek long-lost life insurance claims.

The invitation doesn't necessarily mean that the court will take up the state law championed by California's sizable Armenian-American community, which a federal appeals court subsequently struck down.

Politically, though, it drags administration officials back toward a perennial dispute involving Turkey that pits campaign promises against diplomatic imperatives.

More broadly, the California case could test how much leeway states may have to adopt laws that touch on foreign policy concerns, such as immigration and human rights. Michigan, Nevada and Rhode Island already have allied with California in defense of the state's law. Others probably will jump in if the court decides to hear the case.

"We are pleased the court has asked the solicitor general for the government's position," said Washington-based attorney Igor Timofeyev, who's representing several Armenian-American residents of California in appealing the federal court decision to strike down the law.

The solicitor general is the Justice Department lawyer who represents the U.S.

government before the Supreme Court.

Passed in 2000, the California law in question extended the statute of limitations for filing insurance claims by what state lawmakers termed an "Armenian Genocide victim, or heir or beneficiary of an Armenian Genocide victim." The insurance policies were issued during the Ottoman Empire starting in 1875.

"The policies were sold to hundreds of Armenians living in the Ottoman Empire, who were then subject to large-scale forced deportation, murder and expropriation of property by the Ottoman Turkish government between 1915 and 1923," Los Angeles-based attorney Kathryn Lee Boyd wrote in a legal brief.

According to the brief, insurance companies have "refused to honor their contractual obligations to pay."

The Turkish government denies that the widespread killings and deportations during the Ottoman Empire's decline amounted to genocide. President Barack Obama initially said he'd honor the Armenian-genocide phrase; but, like his predecessors, he retreated from the diplomatically loaded wording once in office.

In unanimously striking down the California law last February, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals underscored this political sensitivity.

"The passage of nearly a century since the events in question has not extinguished the potential effect of (the California law) on foreign affairs," Judge Susan Graber wrote for the appellate court. "On the contrary, Turkey ex-

presses great concern over the issue, which continues to be a hotly contested matter of foreign policy around the world."

The appellate court reasoned that the California law strayed too far from traditional state responsibilities into the federal responsibility for foreign policy. Since then, though, the Supreme Court has offered supporters hope by upholding an Arizona immigration law that also dealt with a traditional federal role.

Acting on the first day of the new term, the Supreme Court simply "invited" the solicitor general to file briefs in several cases "expressing the views of the United States."

The solicitor general usually responds to such an invitation. The next step will be a written brief explaining why the court either should hear the California case or let stand the lower court decision that struck down the law.

Timofeyev declined to predict the Obama administration's position. In a legal brief filed on behalf of the insurance companies, Los Angeles-based attorney Neil Soltman stressed that state laws such as California's "cause great potential for disruption or embarrassment." Either position could cause the administration grief. Legal and political considerations could lead it to urge the court not to take the case, and thereby uphold the appellate ruling.

In Congress, foreign policy concerns continue to bottle up an Armenian-genocide commemorative resolution that currently claims 92 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives, far short of what's needed for passage.

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